



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Tulare County Chipping Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	The following towns; Badger, Silver City, Scicon, Doyle Springs, Ponderosa, Johnsondale, Pine Flat, Posey and Sequoia Crest.	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	David Witt	PHONE	(661)319-3308
ADDRESS	13817 Cedar Creek Ave 93314, Bakersfield, Ca 93314		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project scope is the chipping of brush with hand crews. The brushy material to be chipped (estimated at ~3 tons/month) is created by the Posey, Sequoia Crest, Scicon, Ponderosa, Pine Flat, Silver City, Doyle Springs Johnsondale and Badger community members performing their own hazardous fuel reduction activities on their properties. The resulted material is then dropped off by community members to a centralized location to be chipped or in other cases the property owners will bring the material to the road and it will be chipped there. After being cut, the brush is either collected, transported and dropped off by community members to a central appropriate location or it will be chipped in front of the landowner's property. When chipping along the road the material will be brought to the roads edge, the chipper and truck will chip the material for the landowner or back onto the dirt roads. If the material is brought to a chipping site, the site will be flat and the majority of the area will be bare dirt. No heavy equipment with the exception of the chipper shall be utilized by crews during treatment of this material. All generated chips will be left on site for use by the community. The Tulare County RCD is the project sponsor and is funding only the chipping activities. The area is known for previous fire activity and is densely populated. This activity supports the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in place.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 15304 Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project meets the Categorical Exemption as described under 14CCR§15304 Minor Alteration to Land. CNDDB, archeological and field reviews have been conducted for this project. No known species of concern were identified within or adjacent to the project area. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or utilities and service systems.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 7/2/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection